Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/710133863/

Evening Standard (London, Greater London, England) · Thu, Oct 8, 2009
· Page A25
Downloaded on Jul 3, 2025

News

The Phantom of the fairground

Louise Jury
Chief Arts Correspondent

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER today unveiled the long-awaited sequel to his most successful work – and this time The Phantom Of The Opera will be haunting New York.

The world premiere of Love Never Dies will be at the Adelphi Theatre in London in March, with the scene of its tragic tale moving from Paris's opera house to Coney Island fairground.

Lloyd Webber said: "Coney Island is a fantastic place, the place where all the freaks and oddities went, and of course the Phantom could be absorbed in there. He's now the big mogul of Coney and running the whole place. That's where our story starts."

Iranian-born singer Ramin Karimloo, currently playing the Phantom in London, will take on the role in the new production, with American Sierra Boggess, 27, as his love Christine Daaé. Boggess said she and Karimloo, 31, were very excited: "There isn't much to be nervous about because we're ready."

It is more than 15 years since Lloyd Webber considered a follow-up to a show that has grossed more than £3.1 billion and been seen by 100 million. "It's a very tough act to follow," he said. "[The new show] was a very exciting thing for me to write."

Coney Island started attracting tourists in the 1820s and became America's biggest amusement area. By the Fifties it was falling into decline but has become a touchstone in American culture.

Author Frederick Forsyth was among the first to help Lloyd Webber develop the show and Ben Elton created a storyline. "The story was unlocked by Ben who did a wonderful synopsis which is the reason I'm sitting here," the composer said.

The Phantom Of The Opera originally opened at Her Majesty's Theatre in 1986 with Sarah Brightman and Michael Crawford in the lead roles. It celebrates its 23rd birthday in London tomorrow. Tickets for the sequel go on sale today,

Lloyd Webber's sequel unveiled ... and the story moves to NY

Rollercoaster ride: the Phantom story continues in New York's Coney Island

ALEX LENTATI

Music of the night: Andrew Lloyd Webber with stars Sierra Boggess and Ramin Karimloo at the launch of Love Never Dies in the West End today

For more log on to: **loveneverdies.com**

The Phantom of the Fairground

Clipped By:
C_St_Reed
Jul 3, 2025

Copyright © 2025 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.